CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: House On The Edge Of The Park

Other known title(s): La Casa Sperduta Nel Parco

OFLC ref: 1301081.000

Medium: Film

Distributor: 2Brothers Films

Director: Ruggero Deodato

FVLB Applicant: 2Brothers Films

Producer: Franco Di Nunzio
Franco Palaggi

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Film & Video Labelling Body

Classification:	Objectionable.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 05 December 2013

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	**Running time**
Feature(s):	House On The Edge Of The Park	92:50
Total running time:		92:50

Summary of reasons for decision:

This film is deemed objectionable because it tends to promote and support violence and coercion to compel women to submit to sexual conduct. The film is dominated by numerous scenes of sexual violence. It opens on a graphic scene of rape that is not supported by context. The narrative then follows two men as they terrorise a group of people, particularly the female members of the group, who they repeatedly subject to sexual violence.

Gratuitous lingering shots of nudity and other cinematic effects such as romantic music and lighting during the scenes of assault and rape support this purpose. The sexual violence is not contextualized or explored beyond the superficial presentation of the conduct. The victims appear aroused by, unaffected by and thus collusive in the violence perpetrated against them; this feeds into the intrinsic rape myth dialogue of the publication. Viewers are relentlessly exposed to titillating images that eroticise sexual humiliation and violence. All of these factors invite viewers to become complicit in events and to take vicarious pleasure in the men's misogyny and the victims' humiliation and dehumanisation. Further, due to the publication's proliferation of rape myths and relentless eroticized presentation of sexual violence, people who have been subjected to any form of sexual abuse will be re-traumatized by the film's depictions of violence and sexual violence. The legitimization of these rape myths also irredeemably serves to validate viewers' misconceptions of sexual violence and thus their real world response to sexual violence.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act on the application of the classification criteria. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications falling under s3(2) of the Films Videos and Publications Classification Act are deemed to be objectionable. The Classification Office is aware that cut versions of the feature have been released in the United Kingdom and has considered whether a different classification might be possible if excisions were made. However the distributor has notified the Classification Office that any excisions will not be made, so in this instance they have not been recommended.